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Chairman: Mr. Baja ..... (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 155: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the strengthening of the role of the Organization *(continued)* (A/58/33, A/58/346 and A/58/347)

1. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that the role of the Special Committee on the Charter was particularly important in today's world in which multilateralism, a characteristic element of the United Nations, was losing force in solving urgent problems of international peace and security, in the face of a growing tendency to apply unilateral policies in violation of the provisions of the United Nations Charter. The job of the Special Committee was to enhance the effectiveness of the mechanisms described in the Charter of the United Nations, and to adapt them to the new international reality in the general framework of activities aimed at strengthening and reforming the role of the Organization, which Belarus generally supported.

2. On the question of streamlining the Committee's work, Belarus supported the revised working paper submitted by Japan and the Republic of Korea, and recommended adoption of the criterion for organizing the work of the Special Committee set out in resolution 3499 (XXX), which would make it possible to set priorities for reviewing the proposals in the Committee with a view to reaching general consensus. Nonetheless, Belarus was very concerned at the document's reference to achieving general consensus as a basis for deciding whether to continue reviewing the proposals. Recognition of that principle could alter the practice of decisions being adopted by consensus and hinder the presentation of initiatives within the scope of its mandate.

3. With regard to proposals for strengthening the Charter provisions on the maintenance of international peace and security, while it had been impossible to complete any of them in the special session of the Committee held in April, the debate had been constructive and had led to significant progress, particularly on the issue of sanctions. There was an urgent need to alleviate the negative humanitarian and material consequences of sanctions, without undermining their effectiveness or general nature. On that point, Belarus welcomed the success achieved in coordinating the main aspects of the document submitted by the Russian Federation on the principles and fundamental criteria of the imposition of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation, and it hoped that consensus would be reached on the document in the special session of 2004, and that the General Assembly would be able to approve it in the following session. Belarus also supported the working paper submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions. The paper made significant contributions and complemented the one submitted by the Russian Federation. Belarus hoped that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would submit a revised version of the paper in the Committee's special session of 2004, which could take the form of a draft resolution. The Committee should make a priority of reviewing the implementation of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions. Belarus supported the proposal to establish a working group within the Sixth Committee that would focus on the effects of sanctions on third States and would be able to undertake an in-depth analysis of recommendations and conclusions formulated by the ad hoc expert group on sanctions and their effects on third States, which had met in New York in June 1998.

4. It was important and urgent for the Committee to address agenda issues relating to international peace and security, and in particular to review the revised version of the working papers submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation which recommended seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. Belarus favoured adopting a non-confrontational approach to that document, the only purpose of which was to strengthen the system for maintaining international peace and security enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and thus enhance the authority of the Security Council.

5. With regard to publication of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, it urged the Secretary-General to persevere with efforts to overcome the delay in publishing those documents, which were a valuable source of information on the Organization's work, and a means to guarantee institutional continuity.

6. **Ms. Komala Devi** (Malaysia) stated that her delegation continued to insist that the United Nations had to remain the main forum responsible for guaranteeing the maintenance of international peace and security based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The imposition of sanctions to change the behaviour of the targeted State, should be done cautiously and with equanimity, and should only be used as a last resort. Sanctions should have a clearly defined mandate, and their duration should be limited. They should be reviewed periodically and lifted as soon as the reason for imposing them had ceased to exist. In that regard, Malaysia welcomed the Russian Federation's proposal on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation, which raised important issues concerning the negative consequences of sanctions. Given their serious repercussions, consensus was needed on the general criteria governing them, which would enhance their legitimacy. Malaysia believed it would be worthwhile for the Special Committee to continue studying the revised working paper submitted by the Russian Federation, and insisted that the work of the Security Council on sanctions did not prevent the Special Committee from considering the legal aspects of the issue.

7. Although Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations made the Security Council responsible for mitigating the harm suffered by third States from the introduction of sanctions and other measures that might be adopted, States that had invoked that article had clearly achieved little so far. A more thorough assessment needed to be made of the problems faced by third States, and new methods were needed for calculating the damage suffered by them and for dealing with it. In that regard, Malaysia supported the Special Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should continue reviewing the results of the expert group meeting, as set out in document A/53/312, in whatever manner and substantive framework it deemed appropriate. Malaysia was worried by the slow pace at which the issue was moving forward, and hoped that further progress would be made in the forthcoming meeting of the Special Committee. It was looking forward to a continuation of the review of the proposal submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions.

8. Malaysia believed the initiative to develop a legal framework for United Nations peacekeeping missions was worthy of consideration, and it therefore welcomed the proposal made by the Russian Federation entitled "Fundamentals of the legal basis for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the context of chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations". It agreed that the review of the proposal fell within the mandate of the Special Committee, and that the latter would be the appropriate forum for reviewing the legal aspects of peacekeeping operations, which would help to improve such operations and make them more effective as an instrument for maintaining international peace and security. That would not duplicate the work of other United Nations bodies concerned with peacekeeping issues. Close collaboration with those bodies would be beneficial in view of the issue's multifaceted nature. Malaysia welcomed proposals that might improve such collaboration.

9. Strengthening the United Nations to enable it to fulfil its function effectively was a task that required a firm commitment from all Member States. Malaysia believed that the Special Committee also had a key role to play in the process, in the framework of its mandate. The Committee should continue to study measures aimed at revitalizing the role of the United Nations and strengthening the provisions of the Charter. On that point, Malaysia considered it important and timely to continue studying the working paper submitted by Cuba on strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness.

10. In relation to the revised working papers submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation, which recommended seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the use of force by States without prior authorization from the Security Council, except in the exercise of legitimate self-defence, Malaysia considered such a request to be appropriate in the light of recent world events.

11. Malaysia welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to speed up publication of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. It also welcomed the proposal made by Japan and the Republic of Korea to improve the effectiveness of the Special Committee's working methods, and it looked forward to that review being carried out.

12. **Mr. Chaabani** (Tunisia) stated that his delegation considered the issue of the imposition of sanctions in application of chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to be an important one, particularly with regard to their effects on third States; and it regretted that, despite its priority status, the Committee had made so little progress on an issue that had been on its agenda for over 10 years. It hoped that the Special Committee would devote sufficient time in forthcoming meetings to make a serious in-depth review of the issue. Meanwhile, it wished once again to stress a number of aspects: the use of sanctions should be a last resort, after all peaceful means of resolving disputes had been exhausted; and they should always be targeted on specific individuals or entities of the State, so as to have the least possible effect on the population of the State in question and on third States; sanctions should be clearly limited in time, and specific conditions should be established for lifting them; their scope and effectiveness needed to be assessed periodically to gauge more objectively their repercussions on the civil population of the State, and in particular on the most vulnerable groups. That evaluation should also measure the direct incidence of sanctions on the interests and economies of third countries, for which maximum provision should be made for consultation with international financial organizations and humanitarian assistance agencies. Tunisia considered the proposal by Egypt to establish a working group within the Sixth Committee to examine the question of assistance to third States to be pertinent in that regard, and it hoped that there would be a positive follow-up to the proposal. It welcomed the draft declaration submitted by the Russian Federation on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation. Tunisia believed that, pursuant to Article 50 of the Charter and in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, the Security Council should, as a matter of urgency, take responsibility for alleviating the negative effects of sanctions and the cost they imposed on third States. Tunisia had asked for a special fund to be established to provide the necessary assistance to developing third States whose economies were particularly affected by the implementation of sanctions.

13. Tunisia welcomed the recent publication of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions.

14. Tunisia considered that the Special Committee was the appropriate vehicle for reviewing ways to revitalize the Organization and improve its working methods, so that its various organs could fulfil their mandates as effectively as possible. It therefore welcomed the paper submitted by Cuba in previous sessions. The Special Committee should help consolidate democratization of the Organization, bearing in mind the principles and objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration. It was also important to continue reviewing the steps taken by the Organization to ensure revitalization of the General Assembly as the United Nations' key deliberating, legislative, and representative body, to enable it to effectively and efficiently fulfil the functions conferred on it by the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in terms of the maintenance of international peace and security. That review should adopt a global approach and bear in mind the concerns raised by the Secretary-General regarding the future of the Organization.

15. In relation to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, Tunisia stressed their importance and welcomed the sustained effort made by the Secretary-General to speed up their publication. 16. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) stated that the events of recent months had increased the importance of the Special Committee's work, and conferred added value and unique significance to its debates on the maintenance of international peace and security. Sierra Leone gave top priority to implementation of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by sanctions. It welcomed the steps taken in recent years by the Security Council to find ways to improve sanctions regimes and limit their adverse effects on third States, which would make a major contribution to the effectiveness of sanctions in some cases. To be effective, sanctions depended on cooperation from third States, but that was difficult to guarantee when cooperation itself caused major economic upheaval. Sierra Leone favoured an in-depth study of possible measures to alleviate the negative effects of sanctions on third States, bearing in mind the needs created as a result of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

17. Sierra Leone welcomed the proposal by the Russian Federation on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions. The paper raised a number of important issues that warranted further study. A balance needed to be struck

between sanctions regimes and humanitarian assistance; sanctions could not be indefinite, and they should respect human and humanitarian rights.

18. The representative of Sierra Leone referred to the Secretary-General's report (A/53/312) and suggested that the Special Committee could review the conclusions of the special expert group contained therein at the next session. Sierra Leone supported the review of the proposal by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions, and it supported the three fundamental principles contained therein, namely: 1. The implementation of sanctions and coercive measures should be exceptional, in the sense that they were to be used a last resort when all peaceful methods had been exhausted. 2. The implementation of sanctions should not impose financial or economic burdens on the targeted State other than those resulting from the direct application of the sanctions; 3. The State in question was entitled to complain and obtain fair compensation for sanctions imposed without legal foundation. Sierra Leone considered that a more in-depth review of the proposal was needed.

19. The paper submitted by Cuba, on strengthening the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness, restated the opinion that the General Assembly should play a constructive role in maintaining international peace and security, notwithstanding the Security Council's primary but not exclusive responsibility in that domain; and it asked for consideration to be given to how the respective mandates of the Security Council and General Assembly could be kept in balance. In relation to the Trusteeship Council, Sierra Leone believed it should be retained as a United Nations body. Lastly, the speaker praised the Secretary-General's efforts to reduce the delay in publication of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, which were an invaluable source of information.

20. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary of the Sixth Committee), replying to the question raised by the delegation of Costa Rica on possible collaboration by academic institutions in preparation of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations organs, said that the Office of Legal Affairs had approached several academic institutions about the possibility of preparing a legal publication similar to the Repertory, which would guide Member States and external researchers on the application and interpretation of the Charter of the United Nations, and the viability of that publication being published trilingually in English, French and Spanish. The replies received from the universities of New York, Cambridge, Paris-Nanterre and Berlin had one thing in common: all of them refused the invitation to prepare the Repertory, for reasons that included lack of staff and resources, lack of an "internal" perspective, which was only available to the Secretariat, and the impossibility of maintaining the multilingual nature of the publication. The University of Paris-Nanterre also stressed that the intellectual neutrality of the Repertory as prepared by the Secretariat would inevitably be lost if its preparation was outsourced to an external academic institution. Nonetheless, some of the replies signalled an interest in future collaboration with the Secretariat via the establishment of research standards, various university programmes, assistance through scholarships, etc. No new measures had been taken on the subject, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the future of the Repertory.

21. **Mr. Díaz-Paniagua** (Costa Rica) asked the Secretary when the various studies would be posted on the Internet, in particular in Spanish, and enquired about the current status of the preparation of studies relating to priority articles, and which departments were responsible for preparing them.

22. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary) said that the information requested would be provided at a future meeting, and he added, in relation to the priority articles, that once it had been decided to continue preparing the Repertory, through the corresponding General Assembly decision, it would then be decided which articles were for priority study.

23. **Mr. Díaz-Paniagua** (Costa Rica) said that his delegation believed the Repertory should continue to be prepared and asked which articles were most delayed, and which departments were responsible for undertaking the corresponding studies.

24. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary) replied that two charts would be circulated. The first would indicate approximately when the whole study would be available on the Internet, and the second would specify the preparation status of each article. With regard to the departments responsible, the Secretary referred delegations to the Secretary-General's report.

25. **Mr. Medrek** (Morocco) regretted the scant progress made on implementing the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the introduction of sanctions, a matter that was now more urgent than ever. Sanctions were extreme measures that could only be used when all peaceful means of settling disputes had been exhausted; they had to be implemented with the utmost prudence, their duration and the conditions for lifting or suspending them needed to be established in advance, and their effectiveness needed to be periodically evaluated. Although, in principle, sanctions aimed to change the behaviour of recalcitrant States, in practice they also affected the civil population and caused economic destabilization either in the targeted State, or in third States. The Security Council was therefore responsible for evaluating their negative impact and assisting affected third States. In that regard, the paper submitted by the Russian Federation provided a sound basis for future discussions on the subject. Equally praiseworthy was the work done by the special expert group responsible for establishing a methodology for evaluating the adverse consequences caused to third States as a result of the implementation of preventive or coercive measures, and to study innovative and practical ways to provide international assistance to affected third States.

26. On the issue of peaceful settlement of disputes, the Moroccan delegation applauded the approval of resolution 57/26 on 19 December 2002, on the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, which had been prepared on the basis of the working paper submitted jointly by the delegations of Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom.

27. On the future of the Trusteeship Council, Morocco considered it would be premature to take a definitive decision, although it acknowledged the need to review its role in the framework of the current reform of the Organization.

28. With regard to the Special Committee, Morocco advised considering all initiatives aimed at improving and streamlining its working methods, and it welcomed the proposals made by the delegations of Japan and Korea, which responded globally to the concerns and expectations expressed by several delegations.

29. With regard to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, Morocco was grateful for the work done by the Secretary-General to speed up the publication of those documents, which were a valuable source of information and helped maintain the institutional memory of the United Nations. The Moroccan delegation reiterated its hope that those documents would continue to be published. In addition, the initiative to make them accessible over the Internet was positive and could alleviate the effects of the delay. The printed version should not be abandoned, however, since it was particularly valuable in countries where Internet access was very limited, as often was the case in African States.

30. **Mr. Haj Ibrahim** (Syrian Arab Republic) stated that his country was extremely concerned at the policy of double standards and the prevalence of political criteria in implementation of the sanctions regime. Coercive measures of that type were only directed against vulnerable countries, while other States, such as Israel, violated Security Council resolutions, including 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), assassinated individuals and occupied other countries' territory by force, because they enjoyed protection from permanent members of the Security Council, to such an extent that they launched terrorist attacks using weapons of mass destruction. The Council ought to be governed by justice and equity, and should consider the short and long-term effects of sanctions, specifying, from the time of their introduction, the criteria and steps that the target country needed take for them to be lifted and their precise duration, in order to fulfil the provisions established in the Charter. Sanctions should also be lifted as soon as the threat motivating their implementation had disappeared and the target State had applied Council resolutions and acted in accordance with the law, so that it could be reintegrated into the international community.

31. It was also necessary to ensure that third countries were not harmed, because that would detract from the legitimacy of the sanctions and allow such countries to seek compensation. The paper submitted by the Russian Federation, entitled "Declaration on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation," was of the utmost importance and required in-depth study. The speaker also drew attention to the paper submitted by Cuba which argued that the process of restructuring United Nations organs should be democratic and effective, and not exclude the General Assembly. The proposal by the

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to strengthen the role of the Assembly in peace-keeping was also aimed in that direction.

32. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic did not see a need for Trusteeship Council to be abolished, since that would require far-reaching changes to be made to the Charter, and it did not impose any financial burden on the Organization. The International Court of Justice, for its part, should be given the financial and human resources it needed to fulfil its task. Lastly, Syria considered that the Sixth Committee was the competent body to review its agenda issues, and it supported the working methods of the Special Committee and saw no reason to shorten its session.

33. **Mr. Adhikari** (Nepal) highlighted the work of the Committee on the Charter in relation to application of the Charter provisions on assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, and congratulated that Committee and its Working Group for its report (document A/58/33). Nepal was extremely interested in strengthening the powers of the United Nations and making it more effective in achieving the aims and principles enshrined in the Charter. It would therefore contribute to the reform of the Organization to facilitate its activities in promoting peace and security, sustainable development and justice throughout the world.

34. Nepal reiterated its position expressed at the previous session of the Sixth Committee with respect to sanctions. The Charter of the United Nations established a collective security system and provided for the imposition of sanctions as an instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention of conflicts. Article 50 of the Charter also foresaw that sanctions might cause problems to third States, and it called for measures to be taken to resolve them. Sanctions were an extreme measure to be implemented with moderation and only as a last resort. The Security Council should only impose sanctions when it was absolutely convinced that there was a threat to peace, a breakdown of peace, or an act of aggression by the State, and that sanctions were the best way to change that State's behaviour. They should never be used to punish innocent individuals, impoverish peoples or destabilize third States.

35. Nepal considered that sanctions should be periodically reviewed and lifted as soon as the reason for their imposition had disappeared. Moreover, they should only be renewed if the State in question continued to ignore its obligations and provided they remained relevant and effective. In that context, Nepal welcomed the recent decision by the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on Libya.

36. The establishment of mechanisms and procedures for fulfilling the provisions of the Charter, would greatly help to dispel doubts that had arisen in recent years concerning the credibility of the United Nations sanctions regime and of the Organization itself, thereby making the sanctions regime more effective and mitigating the adverse effects on affected third States. The international community considered it essential to have a methodology in place to evaluate the adverse effects of sanctions, including "smart" sanctions, such as arms embargoes, asset freezes, and travel restrictions, so the Security Council should act accordingly. Nepal stressed the need to establish methods and standards for determining the direct and indirect damage caused by sanctions. An essential element in any sanctions regime should be the level of economic development and the nature of the relation between the third State and that targeted by the sanctions.

37. Nepal welcomed the fact that the Security Council had taken account of the processes of Interlaken, Bonn-Berlin and Stockholm in relation to mitigation of the adverse effects of sanctions especially for third States. In its report, the Special Committee had made recommendations on the methodology for providing assistance to third States affected by sanctions. The revised working paper submitted by the Russian Federation on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation provided a basis for the Committee's deliberations.

38. Nepal supported the creation of a voluntary assistance fund to compensate for the adverse effects of sanctions through development assistance and trade concessions. It believed that assistance of that type would encourage affected third States to uphold the sanctions regime. It was impossible to ignore the serious humanitarian consequences of sanctions for the most vulnerable groups of the civil population, such as women, children and the elderly, for which reason methods should be found to provide humanitarian assistance to innocent victims, paying special attention to those vulnerable groups. Except in cases where political, legal, and security structures had totally

collapsed, the consent of the recipient State should be obtained before providing assistance of that type, which should always be supervised by the United Nations.

39. Nepal considered that Article 24 of the Charter, which required the Security Council to file sanctions reports for consideration by the General Assembly, should be applied in a way that would enable the General Assembly to effectively carry out its task, and that the Economic and Social Council should also be able to evaluate the effects of sanctions on third States and take steps to alleviate them. It also stressed the need to make effective use of existing procedures for the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes between States.

40. Nepal was in favour of avoiding duplication of tasks so that United Nations resources could be used as effectively and efficiently as possible. The Special Committee should focus on its mandate and consider new forms of partnership making it possible to cooperate more closely with the main United Nations organs. It should also deal with the issues that had been assigned to it in previous sessions of the General Assembly before taking on new ones.

41. Reform of the United Nations system was imperative. The General Assembly needed to reclaim its status as the leading United Nations body and play an effective role in the fields of international peace and security, development, justice and the rule of law. The role of the Economic and Social Council also needed to be enhanced to enable it to carry out the activities envisaged in the Charter. The role and functioning of the Trusteeship Council should be reviewed in the light of the general reform of the Organization. With regard to the Security Council, its structure and working methods should have been reformed long ago, to increase the legitimacy and effectiveness of its work.

42. Referring to the unswerving faith that the peoples of the world had placed in the United Nations, Nepal believed that the Organization needed to be on a par with the functions attributed to it by the Charter in the domains of peace, progress and justice; and the Special Committee had a major role to play in that enterprise.

43. **Mr. Ashiru** (Nigeria) reiterated his country's view that sanctions were by nature an extreme measure to be applied with caution and only when all other peaceful means of dispute settlement had been exhausted. Sanctions should not be open-ended, but should be lifted as soon as the specific objectives being pursued had been achieved. Nigeria stressed the need to periodically review sanctions to mitigate their negative effects on the civil population, especially women and children, and on third States. A way needed to be found to assist the victims of such sanctions. Although Nigeria agreed that the imposition of selective sanctions on recalcitrant States could help protect the most vulnerable groups and third States, they clearly did not always produce the desired results, so it was essential to create mechanisms to provide assistance. Nigeria therefore supported the measures adopted to enable the United Nations system, international financial organizations and other international institutions, regional organizations and Member States to contribute directly and specifically to resolving the special economic problems of third States affected by the sanctions imposed by the Security Council. Nigeria favoured maintaining constructive dialogue with those States in ordinary and special meetings between third States and the donor community, with participation by the United Nations organs and other international bodies; and it believed consideration should be given to approving innovative and practical measures, such as trade exemptions and concessions, or special or preferential treatment to the affected third States, or their suppliers; preference for contractors from affected third States in investments in the targeted State; participation in the supply of goods for peacekeeping operations or in activities of rehabilitation, reconstruction and post-conflict development; and the holding of direct consultations by the Security Council with those States.

44. Nigeria recognized the importance of the freedom to choose peaceful ways to resolve disputes, and considered that the use of such mechanisms required the consent of the parties to the dispute. It therefore welcomed the approval of General Assembly resolution 57/26 of 19 November 2002, on the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, which in paragraph 9 reminded States of the need to declare that they recognized the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. Nigeria accepted the jurisdiction of that court and urged States that had not yet done so to take that step. Moreover, in view of the enormous volume of work and responsibility entrusted to the court, Nigeria stressed the need to provide it with adequate financial resources.

45. Nigeria also urged States to continue making use of the different procedures and methods that existed for the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, such as fact-finding and goodwill missions, special envoys, observers, good offices, mediation, conciliation and arbitration. It also recognized the usefulness of regional and subregional peace initiatives, as shown by the work done by the Economic Community of West African States in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, and by the Southern African Development Community to promote development in the Great Lakes region.

46. With regard to proposals for the future of the Trusteeship Council, Nigeria believed it would be premature to abolish it or change its statute, since its existence did not have financial implications for the United Nations, and the assignment of new functions would require reform of the Charter. The attribution of new functions should take place in the framework of the general reform of the United Nations and the corresponding Charter amendment. Nonetheless, Nigeria recommended that a wide-ranging study be undertaken to explore the areas to which the resources of the Trusteeship Council could be channelled.

47. It was undeniable that the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council remained valuable sources of information on the application and interpretation of the Charter and the work of the United Nations. They were also indispensable for preserving the institutional memory of the Organization. Nigeria recognized the importance of those publications, especially at a time when the principles, standards, and values of the Charter needed to be restated; and it welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General to bring the publication of both documents up to date. It also praised the Secretary-General for his initiative to publish the studies of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs on the Internet, and it was grateful to scholarship-holders for their contribution to the Repertory in the framework of the current United Nations scholarship programme. Nigeria also expressed its gratitude to France, Greece and the United Kingdom for their contributions to the trust fund to update the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council, and it urged the Secretary-General to continue collaborating with the academic community in preparing those publications, provided that that did not undermine their quality.

48. Lastly, Nigeria once again reiterated the need to simplify the working methods of the Committee on the Charter. The Committee ought to focus on fewer issues and avoid dissipating its resources on those that were already being considered by other United Nations bodies, such as the Security Council's informal working group on sanctions and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. In addition, proposals needed to be presented well in advance to allow for their detailed analysis, and a termination mechanism should be established to avoid lengthy debate on proposals year after year. Nigeria supported the idea of a certain proposals being examined once every three years instead of annually.

Agenda item 164: Observer status for the East African Community in the General Assembly.

49. **The Chairman** stated that Nigeria had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.3.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.